

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-30

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S E C R E T GENEVA 4603

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: CSCE: CONSULTATIONS ON ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

REF: GENEVA 4397; GENEVA 4464 NOTAL; GENEVA 4521 NOTAL

1. NATO DELEGATION HEADS' CAUCUS HELD BRIEF DISCUSSION JULY 18 OF ACTION WHICH WILL BE REQUIRED IN GENEVA IN PURSUANCE OF NATO CONSULTATIONS ON ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS. MOST DELEGATIONS RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR RAPID ACTION IN GENEVA AS SOON AS NAC AGREES ON A MANDATE FOR FURTHER WORK. HOWEVER, AS FORESHADOWED BY REFTELS, THERE WAS SHARP RESISTANCE TO THE IDEA OF DRAFTING TEXTS AT THIS TIME, AND OPPOSITION TO THE TACTIC OF CONVEYING ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS TO THE SOVIETS PRIOR TO FIRST READING OF ALL SUBJECTS IN BASKET III.

2. IT IS NOW APPARENT THAT THE EASTERN GROUP IS WELL AWARE OF EC-NINE AND NATO CONSULTATIONS ON ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS, AND MANY WESTERN AND NEUTRAL DELEGATIONS HERE BELIEVE KNOWLEDGE OF THIS PROCESS HAS AND WILL ENCOURAGE SOVIET OBSTINACY ON BASKET III AND MILITARY SUBJECTS. EASTERN DELEGATIONS HAVE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS ASKED WESTERN REPS WHEN LIST OF ESSENTIALS WILL BE READY AND WHAT IT WILL CONTAIN. THIS HAS OBVIOUSLY CAUSED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN TO NATO CAUCUS, AND HAS TENDED TO STIFFEN RESISTANCE TO IDEA OF DRAFTING TEXTS

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AT THIS TIME.

3. USG VIEWS ON TACTICS HAVE BEEN SHARPLY CRITICIZED BY ALLIED DELEGATES HERE, ESPECIALLY APPARENT RUSH TO MOVE CSCE AHEAD, WHICH SOME ALLIES SEE AS PLAYING INTO SOVIET HANDS, AND APPARENT INDIFFERENCE TO THE IMPORTANCE OF BASKET III SUBJECTS. DESPITE OUR ENERGETIC EFFORTS TO GET CAUCUS THINKING ABOUT ITS ROLE IN THIS CONSULTATION PROCESS AT AN EARLY DATE, FIRST MEETING ON THIS SUBJECT WILL ONLY BE HELD ON TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 23. WITH CSCE DISPERSING ON JULY 26, THIS WILL LEAVE VERY LITTLE TIME TO DEVELOP SOME KIND OF AGREED POSITION PAPER, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF BASIC DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN US AND ALLIES ON SCOPE AND TIMING OF THIS EFFORT. DALE

SECRET

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